

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1914.

THE PATH OF NAPOLEON
THE BATTLE OF THE THREE EMPERORS100 Years After His
Downfall By JAMES MORGAN

The story today is of the most famous of Napoleon's victories, the battle of Austerlitz, which he won on the morning of December 2, 1805. It was the crowning triumph of his career, and it was the last time that he was ever defeated in battle.

At Austerlitz, Napoleon, with an army of 68,000 men, defeated the combined forces of the Russian and Austrian empires, which numbered 110,000 men. The battle was a decisive victory for Napoleon, and it was the beginning of the end for the Russian and Austrian empires.

THE SUN OF AUSTRERLITZ

DATES AND EVENTS—AGE 18.
Nov. 18, 1805. Napoleon's army of 68,000 men defeated the combined forces of the Russian and Austrian empires, which numbered 110,000 men. The battle was a decisive victory for Napoleon, and it was the beginning of the end for the Russian and Austrian empires.

SOME great battle fields are like some great men; the closer you come to them the smaller they appear. Austerlitz and the sun of Austerlitz, for example, are known to every schoolboy in the Western Hemisphere. They spell success in the world round, just as Waterloo is synonymous with defeat. Yet the nearer Austerlitz is approached, the more obscure it becomes. It is not even a dot on the official railway map of Austria.

At Brunn, in the Austrian castle, Silvio Pellico, the Italian patriot-prisoner, wrote his sad and moving tale, "My Prisoners," and where Napoleon's army made its headquarters in the opening winter of 1805, the guide books and the hotel people, with all their knowledge of the surrounding attractions and neighboring excursions, are dumb concerning Austerlitz, fifteen miles away. And even the 3,000 inhabitants of the village itself have to think twice before they can call to mind the name by which their little town is celebrated on the pages of history. For they are mostly Slavs who speak the Czech or Bohemian tongue, and they call their shining name of Austerlitz, which is dimmer at Vienna than it is at San Francisco, vanishes quite at the gates of the town.

Not only is Austerlitz not Austerlitz, but there never was a battle of Austerlitz. For not a volley was fired within the limits of the town. Two Emperors, Napoleon and Francis, met on the morning of the battle, and the battle did not fight in the town or for the town. It better suited Napoleon's vanity to emphasize his victory by naming the battle for the village in which the two defeated Emperors had made their headquarters and to write his bulletin in the very room from which he drove them forth in the snow of a winter's night.

Napoleon not only named the battle to please his fancy, but he also chose the battle ground and even the battle day. He had been away from the field for more than eight weeks in the Danube without a battle, taken Vienna, the capital of the Hapsburgs, without a battle, and had marched into Moravia to meet another army of 55,000 Austrians and Russians which was accompanied by the Emperor Francis of Austria and the Czar Alexander.

Arrived at Brunn, the Moravian capital which lies at the foot of a castle hill ninety miles north of Vienna, the heir of the Revolution loudly clamored for peace to "the brother," the heir of Charles V. and "my brother," the heir of Peter the Great, who were at the camp of the allied army and near the Russian frontier. His appeals, as he shrewdly intended, were mistaken for weakness and fear and only served to embolden the imperial allies to give him battle, then and there, the very thing he was seeking.

For, above all, he did not wish to chase the enemy any farther. He was already 1,000 miles from home, with 85,000 Russians and Austrians in front of him, 80,000 Prussians and Saxons behind him, and ready to join the alliance against him. He must have a battle at once and win a crushing victory. Welcome signs that his two "brothers," Alexander and Francis, were sufficiently jattered by their recent defeat to make him a desperate plight and saw them preparing to smite him, he galloped out on the road to Olmutz for the battle ground, and the day of the land between him and the enemy. Pausing at a point a dozen miles to the east of Brunn, he saw the scene in silence for some time.

In his strategic imagination Napoleon was fighting then, but the great combat was spread before him. On the eastern horizon he saw the Little Carpathian Mountains rising like a wall of fire, and on the western horizon he saw the rolling plains and gentle hills, little dunes and mounds, ponds and marshes lying in front of the village of Austerlitz.

The allies would come down the road from Olmutz, while his own outposts fell back before their advance and steadily drew them on to the battle ground where his forces would be more than half concealed as they crouched behind a range of hills west of Austerlitz. Naturally and properly the allies would move around him on the right or south, in their effort to cut his lines to Vienna and Brunn and to his communications with the rear. Once they were behind him they could hope to effect a junction with the army of the Austrians, which was moving toward Vienna from Italy; they would recapture the Austrian capital, they would destroy the legions of France.

Napoleon, however, relied on their attacking after the fashion of his foes to do the right thing in the wrong way. He knew they would flinch from staking everything on a single move and would not have the courage to throw themselves upon his right wing in a solid body. In their anxiety to make success certain they would make it impossible by sending only a part of their army against his right, while he sent another part against his left.

Moreover, he took note of the fact that their principal movement would have to be made across a broad and level plain, and that they would be exposed to the high hills and some ponds, natural conditions that would aid him to retard and harass them. He knew that they were striking at his two wings, he would hold the main body of his forces in his hand, ready to smite them with a thunderbolt at their center and thus break their army in two. It often of the old story repeated so often of the field of Austerlitz, his foe would divide to attack him while he waited to attack them.

After he had finished fighting the battle in his fancy, as he sat in his saddle on the highroad, he turned to his waiting and watching staff. "Make a careful note of all these heights," he commanded. "It is here you will fight before two months are over." His only mistake was that the enemy did not wait two months but only two weeks to meet him on the ground he had chosen.

The chief military commanders of the allied armies prudently counseled the adoption of a waiting policy and defensive measures until the autumn, when, if they were not met, they would have to fight. But Napoleon was impatient to recover his lost capital and dominions, and the twenty-eight-year-old Czar was burning with eagerness to see a battle, as also were the young nobles who surrounded him.

Many were certain that Napoleon had with him no more than 40,000 men. The monarchs, therefore, taking matters to their own untrained hands, determined to move at once. Soon the allies came upon French outposts along the Brunn road, but these fled before them and left the way open to Austerlitz, where the two Emperors found a pleasant chateau for their headquarters. As the French retreated, the more eager spirits among the Russians grew fearful that the enemy would continue to retreat and finally make good his escape.

Nevertheless, the allies went on with their preparations for the battle of Austerlitz. The next day, and at a midnight council an Austrian general stood up and roused the sleeping soldiers from their beds. He was old Gen. Kutusoff, the Russian commander, forgot in a sound sleep his disgust with the allied army, and he forced upon him, punctuating with his deep snore the loudly delivered orders of the Russian.

For a Finnish Fight. Napoleon had been riding over the field all night, and watching the position of the allies. From the hills behind which he had posted most of his 10,000 men he looked across a plain to the encampment of the enemy two miles in front of Austerlitz on the banks of a little river that flows to the west of the town.

Out of the plain between the two armies rose the big, steep hill of Pratzen, which Napoleon called the "key" of the battle. He would have seized upon it as an admirable position to defend. But he had come to Moravia to destroy an army, not to hold a hill.

He left the hill, therefore, without a man on it in the night, and the allies might not be diverted from their nicely laid plans. He could have delivered "only any general in Europe except Napoleon would have seized upon it as an admirable position to defend. But he had come to Moravia to destroy an army, not to hold a hill.

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THE CASTLE OF AUSTRERLITZ, FROM WHICH NAPOLEON DROVE TWO EMPERORS

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MEETING OF EMPERORS NAPOLEON AND FRANCIS

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VERNEY'S SKETCH OF "THE SUN OF AUSTRERLITZ"

Napoleon on the Men Behind the Guns

In war men are nothing; one man is everything.—(A note in 1808.)

The sentries raised his face in the flickering glare of a cry of "Vive l'Empereur!" which ran through the camp and roused the sleeping soldiers from their beds. He was old Gen. Kutusoff, the Russian commander, forgot in a sound sleep his disgust with the allied army, and he forced upon him, punctuating with his deep snore the loudly delivered orders of the Russian.

He left the hill, therefore, without a man on it in the night, and the allies might not be diverted from their nicely laid plans. He could have delivered "only any general in Europe except Napoleon would have seized upon it as an admirable position to defend. But he had come to Moravia to destroy an army, not to hold a hill.

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The firing line of the allies was flung out seven miles in length when, not far from noon, Napoleon began to make a deadly assault at the enemy's weakest point, the denuded center. The shock of the contest fell upon a picturesque little village along the line of the railroad that now crosses the battlefield on its way from Brunn toward Olmutz. There Prince Murat and Marshal Bernadotte faced the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, and there the flower of the Imperial Guard of France, the Chevalier Guards of Austria rolled back and forth over the field in the murderous guard of a hand-to-hand combat, a French guardman, shrieking as he savagely ran his sabre through a young Russian guardman. "We will give the ladies of St. Petersburg something to cry for," after horrible sacrifices, the remnant of the Noble and the Chevalier Guards fled before the Gallic fury, and Murat and Bernadotte were left to face the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia.

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